

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
28 June 2001 (28.06.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/46323 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: C09C 3/10, 1/42, D21H 21/14
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/IB00/01904
- (22) International Filing Date:
19 December 2000 (19.12.2000)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
9930177.2 22 December 1999 (22.12.1999) GB
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except JP, US):
CLARIANT FINANCE (BVI) LIMITED [—/—]; Citco Building, Wickhams Cay, P.O. Box 662, Road Town, Tortola (VG).
- (71) Applicant (for JP only): CLARIANT INTERNATIONAL LTD [CH/CH]; Rothausstrasse 61, CH-4132 Muttenz (CH).
- (72) Inventors; and
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): FARRAR, John, Martin [GB/GB]; 47 Layton Lane, Rawdon Leeds, Yorkshire LS19 6RQ (GB). JACKSON, Andrew, Clive [GB/GB]; 25 Walton Park Pannal, Harrogate, Yorkshire HG3 1EJ (GB). TINDAL, Alec, Stewart [GB/GB]; 4 Woodhall Avenue, Leeds, Yorkshire LS5 3LH (GB).
- (74) Agent: D'HAEMER, Jan; Clariant International Ltd, Rothausstrasse 61, CH-4132 Muttenz (CH).
- (81) Designated States (national): AU, BR, CA, CN, JP, NO, SI, US, ZA.
- (84) Designated States (regional): European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR).
- Published:
— With international search report.
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: CATIONICALLY MODIFIED WHITE PIGMENTS, THEIR PRODUCTION AND USE

(57) Abstract: Cationically modified white pigments (W) in particulate form, essentially consisting of a particulate inorganic white pigment (M) of a particle size in the range of 0,1 to 40 µm and an applied water soluble, cationic, crosslinked polymer (P_A) containing quaternary ammonium groups in salt form, obtainable by reaction of epichlorohydrin or of epichlorohydrin derivatives or precursors with amines, under conditions leading to at least partial crosslinking, optionally in combination with an anionic optical brightener (B) and where the molar ratio of (B) to (P_A) is such that the number of cationic charges of the total polymer (P_A) is higher than the number of anionic charges of the total anionic optical brightener (B), are surprisingly useful as cationic white pigments in various fields of technique, especially in papermaking.

WO 01/46323 A1

CATIONICALLY MODIFIED WHITE PIGMENTS, THEIR PRODUCTION AND USE.

In the optical brightening of substrates comprising inorganic substances, in particular as conventionally employed as white pigments or fillers, when using anionic optical brighteners the inorganic substances are usually not brightened to a relevant or useful degree. Further, especially in the field of papermaking, it is also conventional to add some cationic substances, e.g. linear polycationic polymers, especially e.g. as assistants with flocculating properties, more particularly as drainage or retention aids or as fixatives. Such cationic substances may have an adverse effect on anionic optical brighteners by precipitation or quenching due to interaction between the anionic and cationic species. Further the use of such cationic polymers together with inorganic pigments or fillers in aqueous medium may have an undesired influence on the regular distribution of the filler or pigment throughout the aqueous suspension.

In US-A-4677158 there are described polyoxyethylene-substituted quaternary ammonium compounds, which, according to one variant, may be reacted with diisocyanates to give polyurethanes; the ammonium compounds are used to modify certain defined smectite clays.

In US-A-4764544 there are described coated filler comprising acid group-containing organic polymers, which may contain amino groups and which may be crosslinked.

In US-A-5147507 there is described the addition of a cationic polymer, which is the reaction product of an acid dimer with polyamines, to a filler for papermaking, such as calcium carbonate.

EP-A-491346 describes the treatment of fillers pigments for papermaking with cationic polymers containing quaternary cyclic ammonium groups.

JP-A-55-013735 describes the treatment of pigments for paper coating with cationic polymeric electrolytes; in the description there is a very long list of various kinds of polymers, among else some quaternary polymers or some crosslinked polymers.

It has now surprisingly been found that by cationically modifying the inorganic pigments or fillers with certain crosslinked quaternary cationic products as defined below, especially when combined with optical brighteners as described below, there may be achieved products of notable properties e.g. in the brightness of the inorganic products, or in the physical form of the treated inorganic substances, such as workability and regular distribution in suspension.

The invention relates to the defined cationically modified white pigments, their production and use.

- 5 The invention thus firstly provides a cationically modified white pigment (W) in particulate form, essentially consisting of a particulate inorganic white pigment (M) of a particle size in the range of 0.1 to 40 μm and an applied water soluble, cationic, crosslinked polymer (P_A) containing quaternary ammonium groups in salt form, obtainable by reaction of epichlorohydrin or of epichlorohydrin derivatives or precursors with amines, under conditions leading to at least partial crosslinking. optionally in combination with an anionic optical brightener (B) and where the molar ratio of (B) to (P_A) is such that the number of cationic charges of the total polymer (P_A) is higher than the number of anionic charges of the total anionic optical brightener (B).

- 15 The invention thus more particularly concerns the stated modification of particulate inorganic white pigments (M) by (P_A) optionally in combination with (B) to the cationically modified products (W').

- (M) comprise in general known inorganic substances as usually employed as white pigments or fillers (or loading agents), and which more particularly are conventionally employed in non-coloured form especially in papermaking, and as may also be employed in other fields of technique such as paints, lacquers, cosmetics, plastics, construction material etc. Mainly concerned are those for papermaking, since in papermaking industry problems exist with the quenching of optical brightening agents by additives used to improve retention and drainage during the papermaking process.

- 25 The term "pigment" as used herein is intended to comprise also the term "filler", insofar as a same substance may be used as filler or pigment.

- The inorganic pigment (M) may be any such substance, naturally occurring and optionally physically modified, or synthetically produced, and preferably as employed in particular in paper coatings or as fillers or loading agents in the paper sheet, as added e.g. in the size or also in the paper pulp suspension. (M) may include mineral substances and synthetically produced inorganic substances, such as silica, alumina, titanium dioxide, zinc oxide and sulphide, and inorganic salts, e.g. silicates, aluminates, titanates, sulphates and carbonates, of low valence metal ions, mainly of alkali metal ions, alkaline earth metal ions or earth metal ions, especially of
- 35

sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, barium and/or aluminium. The following may be mentioned as examples: titanium dioxides (rutile, anatase), potassium titanates, zinc oxide, zinc sulphide, lithopone, calcium sulphates (gypsum or anhydrite), various forms of silica (e.g. amorphous silica such as diatomite), alumina trihydrate, sodium silico-aluminate, talc (MgO·4SiO₂·H₂O), barium sulphate (baryte, blanc fixe), calcium sulphoaluminate (satin white), chrysotile, china clay in various degrees of whiteness (mainly comprising Al₂O₃·SiO₂·H₂O and optionally further metal oxides such as iron oxide, titanium dioxide, magnesium oxide, calcium oxide, sodium oxide and/or potassium oxide) and calcium carbonate in various forms (mineral natural form or synthetic precipitated and/or crystallised forms). They may be employed in the forms as commercially available, in particular of various degrees of whiteness, e.g. of a whiteness > 80, mostly > 82 (measured according to ISO methods), but also less white products may be used, e.g. of a whiteness ≤ 82, or even ≤ 80, e.g. in the range of 70 to 80.

The particle size of (M) is on average in the range of 0.1 to 40 µm, as obtainable by conventional methods, e.g. by grinding and/or milling and/or – if required – sieving and screening, or by suitable precipitation and/or (micro)crystallisation methods. Commercially available products mostly contain in general a certain proportion of particles smaller than 0.1 µm (dust) and/or some granules larger than 40 µm; preferably these larger size components are ≤ 20 % by weight, more preferably ≤ 10 % by weight. Preferably the average particle size of such inorganic pigments (M) is within the range of 0.1 to 20 µm, more preferably 0.2 to 10 µm, most preferably 0.2 to 5 µm, preferably at least 75 %, preferably ≥ 80 % of the particles being within these ranges. Among the mentioned pigments (M) are preferred those comprising silicates, in particular kaolin, and especially those comprising carbonates, in particular calcium carbonates.

The inorganic pigment (M) may comprise a conventional dispersant or wetting agent as commercially available, on its surface, e.g. polyphosphates, in a suitable low concentration as usual e.g. < 0.5 % by weight, preferably < 0.3 % by weight. For the purpose of the invention the presence of such a surfactant is not essential and (M) may also be exempt of a dispersant or wetting agent. As mentioned above, (M) may be employed in the forms as commercially available, in particular it may be employed in dry form or in the form of a concentrated aqueous slurry, e.g. with a solids content in the range of 40 to 70 % by weight.

Preferred pigments and fillers (M) have e.g. a specific surface area in the range of 5 to 24 m²/g, preferably 7 to 18 m²/g.

The polymers (P_A) are crosslinked and contain a sufficient proportion of hydrophilic constituents – in particular the essential quaternary ammonium groups and preferably further hydrophilic constituents which are preferably non-ionogenic, in particular polyethylene glycol ether chains and/or low molecular hydroxyalkyl groups such as hydroxyethyl and 2-hydroxypropyl linked to a heteroatom which preferably is O or N – so as to be water soluble. By water soluble is meant a product that gives a clear true or colloidal solution in water at a concentration of 3 g/l, at a pH of 7 and at a temperature of 20°C. They are preferably predominantly aliphatic, more preferably fully aliphatic, disregarding the anions present as counter-ions to the ammonium groups.

The quaternary ammonium groups in (P_A) are covalently linked to at least two carbon atoms of the polymer, in particular so as to form bridging quaternary ammonium groups and optionally also terminal quaternary ammonium groups. The polymers (P_A) may contain further heteroatoms, in particular oxygen atoms and/or non-quaternary amino or ammonium groups. The heteroatoms in the polymer are preferably at a distance of 2 to 6 carbon atoms from each other.

The polymers (P_A) are preferably epichlorohydrin-derived polyquaternary polymers, in particular reaction products of epichlorohydrin or of epichlorohydrin derivatives or precursors with amines, preferably secondary and/or tertiary amines, under conditions leading to at least partial cross-linking.

By polyquaternary is meant herein poly-(quaternary ammonium) i.e. polymers containing several quaternary ammonium groups.

The epichlorohydrin-derived polymers are preferably polyquaternary, crosslinked polymers obtainable by a two- or three-stage synthesis, in which in the first stage epichlorohydrin is reacted with a hydroxy and/or primary or secondary amino compound to give a chloroterminated adduct, and then reacting the chloroterminated adduct with a secondary amine or an at least bifunctional tertiary amine in order to obtain a crosslinked product with quaternary ammonium groups in the polymer structure; if any terminal chlorine is still present in the reaction product, this may be reacted e.g. with a monofunctional secondary or tertiary amine.

As starting hydroxy and/or primary or secondary amino compounds there may be employed preferably aliphatic compounds, which may be cyclic, branched or preferably linear, e.g. mono- or poly-functional alcohols, ammonia, primary aliphatic amines with preferably one to six carbon atoms and which, if containing 2 to 4 carbon atoms, may optionally contain a hydroxygroup as a

substituent, secondary aliphatic amines with 1 to 6 carbon atoms in each aliphatic radical, and which, if the radical contains 2 to 4 carbon atoms, may also be substituted with hydroxy, aliphatic unsubstituted oligoamines with 2 to 4 carbon atoms in each alkylene bridge, or also oligoamines with an alkanol group as a substituent.

5

Oligo means in general a number in the range of 2 to 10, mostly 3 to 8, preferably 3 to 6.

Suitable hydroxy compounds are primary C₁₋₄-alcohols, bi- to hexa-functional aliphatic alcohols with up to six, preferably three to six, carbon atoms in the hydrocarbon radical, in particular of the following formula

10



in which X signifies the x₁-valent radical of a C₃₋₆-alkane or of a corresponding cyclic ether

15

and x₁ signifies a number from 3 to the number of carbon atoms in X,

or a mixture of oligohydroxyalkanes of formula (Ia),

or a mixture one or more oligohydroxyalkanes of formula (Ia), with a C₂₋₃-alkanediol.

or polyalkyleneglycols, in particular of the average formula

20



wherein Alkylene signifies C₂₋₄-alkylene

and x₂ signifies a number from 2 to 40.

25

Preferred compounds of formula (Ia) are those of formula



30

with x₃ being 3 to 6.

Alkylene in formula (Ib) is ethylene, propylene and/or butylene and the polyalkyleneglycols of formula (Ib) may be homo- or copolymers, preferably water soluble products (with a solubility in water of at least 10 g/l at 20°C and pH 7). As polyalkyleneglycols of formula (Ib) there are preferably employed polyethyleneglycols or copolyalkyleneglycols containing a prevailing molar

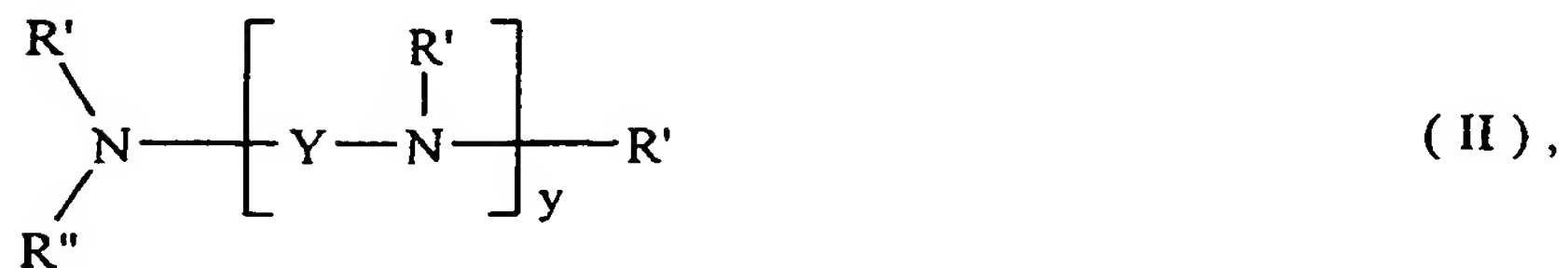
35

proportion of ethyleneoxy-units. More preferably there are employed polyethyleneglycols, i.e. compounds of formula (Ib) in which Alkylene signifies only ethylene.

Suitable mono- or oligo-functional amines with a primary and/or a secondary amino group are
5 for instance mono- or di-(C₁₋₄-alkyl)-amines, mono- or di-(C₂₋₄-hydroxyalkyl)-amines and oligo-
amines with 2 to 4 carbon atoms in the alkylene bridge, such as mono- or di-methyl-amine,
mono- or di-ethyl-amine, mono- or di-isopropyl-amine, mono- or di-ethanol-amine, mono- or di-
isopropanol-amine, ethylenediamine, propylenediamine, butylenediamine, diethylenetriamine,
triethylenetetramine, tetraethylenepentamine, pentaethylenehexamine and N-(2-aminoethyl)-
10 ethanolamine.

By the reaction of the hydroxy and/or primary or secondary amino groups with the epichloro-
hydrin the epoxy ring of the epichlorohydrin is opened and a corresponding adduct is formed
which contains a 2-hydroxy-3-chloropropyl-1 radical. This reaction is preferably carried out in
15 the absence of any other solvent and, especially for hydroxy, in the presence of a catalyst, which
is e.g. a Lewis acid, preferably boron trifluoride e.g. in the form of its etherate or acetic acid
complex. This reaction is exothermic and the epichlorohydrin reacts with the available hydroxy
or amino groups and, as reaction proceeds, may also react with a hydroxy group of a 2-hydroxy-
-3-chloropropyl-1 radical formed during the reaction, so that some of the hydroxy or amino
20 groups in a polyfunctional starting reactant [e.g. of formula (Ia)] may even remain non-reacted.
Depending on the molar ratio, on the functionality of the starting hydroxy- or aminocompound
and on its configuration – especially if x₁ in formula (Ia) or x₃ in formula (Ia') is 4 to 6 – the
degree of reaction of the x₁ or x₃ OH groups with epichlorohydrin may vary, and may e.g. be in
the range of 50 to 95 %, mostly 70 to 90 %, of the total number of OH groups originally present
25 in the starting polyol. The obtained adduct is a chloro-terminated product.

The chloroterminated adduct is then reacted with a suitable amine to produce a polyquaternary
preferably crosslinked product, e.g. with a crosslinking reactant that is capable of providing a
bridging quaternary ammonium group, which suitably is a tertiary oligoamine or a secondary
30 monoamine. Such amines may for instance be reaction adducts of epichlorohydrin with one of
the above mentioned primary or secondary amino compounds, or preferably correspond to the
following formula



in which Y signifies C₂₋₃-alkylene,
 y signifies a number from 0 to 3,
 5 R' signifies C₁₋₃-alkyl or C₂₋₃-hydroxyalkyl
 and R'' has a significance of R', if y is 1 to 3,
 or signifies hydrogen, if y is 0,

especially as a reactant leading to a crosslinking, where the starting oligohydroxycompound is of
 10 formula (Ia), preferably of formula (Ia'),

or to the following formula



15

or



20 wherein R''' signifies hydrogen or C₁₋₃-alkyl
 and w signifies a number from 2 to 6,

the amines of formulae (III) and (IV) being especially suitable as reactants, where the starting
 oligohydroxycompound is of formula (Ib).

25

For an optional chain-terminating reaction there may be carried out an amination with a suitable
 secondary or tertiary monoamine, e.g. of formula (II), with y1 = 0, or of formula (III), preferably
 a quaternizing reaction with a tertiary monoamine of formula (III).

30 As amino compounds of formula (II) there may be employed known amines. The C₁₋₃-alkyl rad-
 icals in R' and R'' may be methyl, ethyl, propyl or isopropyl, the lower molecular ones being pre-

ferred, especially methyl. The $C_{2,3}$ -hydroxyalkyl radicals are preferably 2-hydroxy-ethyl or -propyl. Among the $C_{1,3}$ -alkyl radicals and the $C_{2,3}$ -hydroxyalkyl radicals the $C_{1,3}$ -alkyl radicals are preferred, especially methyl. The index y may be any number from 0 to 3 preferably 0 to 2, more preferably 0 or 1. Representative amines of formula (II) are dimethylamine, diethanol-
5 amine, tetramethylethylenediamine, tetramethylpropylenediamine, N,N-diethanol-N',N'-dimethylethylenediamine, pentamethyldiethylenetriamine and hexamethyltriethylenetetramine, among which the difunctional amines, in particular the lower molecular ones, are preferred, especially dimethylamine and tetramethylethylenediamine. Representative amines of formula (III) are trimethylamine, triethylamine and triethanolamine, among which trimethylamine and triethylamine
10 are preferred. In formula (IV) the index w preferably signifies 2 or 3. Representative amines of formula (IV) are N,N-dimethylaminopropylamine, N,N-diethanolaminopropylamine, tetramethylethylenediamine, tetramethylpropylenediamine and N,N-diethanol-N',N'-dimethylethylenediamine.

15 The polycationic polyquaternary products are polymers at least insofar as either the reaction with the amine leads to a polymer or the starting product is polymeric (e.g. is a polyalkylene glycol) or both.

The molar ratio of crosslinking quaternizing amine to epichlorohydrin adduct is suitably chosen
20 so that a product of polymeric character is produced. The molar ratio of quaternizing amine to epichlorohydrin adduct of a compound of formula (Ia) is preferably chosen so that for every mole-equivalent of adduct (with reference to chlorine) there is employed 0.5 mole of crosslinking amine $\pm 30\%$, e.g. $\pm 10\%$. The molar ratio of quaternizing amine to epichlorohydrin adduct of a compound of formula (Ib) is preferably chosen so that for every mole-equivalent of adduct (with
25 reference to chlorine) there is employed 1 mole of crosslinking amine of formula (II) (with $y = 1$ to 3, preferably 2 or 3) $\pm 30\%$, e.g. $\pm 10\%$. The molar ratio of quaternizing amine to epichlorohydrin adduct of a compound of formula (Ib) is preferably chosen so that for every mole-equivalent of adduct (with reference to chlorine) there is employed 0.9 mole of amine of formula (IV) $\pm 40\%$, e.g. $\pm 20\%$ (if both R''' are hydrogen) or 0.5 mole of amine of formula (IV)
30 $\pm 30\%$, e.g. $\pm 10\%$ (if both R''' are other than hydrogen) or 0.7 mole of amine of formula (IV) $\pm 35\%$, e.g. $\pm 15\%$ (if one R''' is hydrogen and the other is other than hydrogen).

The concentration of the reactants is preferably chosen in such a way that the concentration of (P_A) in the aqueous mixture is in the range of 10 to 75 %, preferably 20 to 70 % by weight.

The reaction of quaternizing amine with the adduct is carried out preferably in aqueous medium and preferably with heating, e.g. at a temperature in the range of 50 to 100°C, preferably 60 to 90°C. During the reaction, at least at the beginning, the basicity of the amine is sufficient for the quaternizing alkylation of the amine with the adduct, i.e. with the chloride used as an alkylating agent. The pH of the reaction mixture is preferably in the range of 4 to 9, at the beginning being preferably in the range of 7 to 9. As reaction proceeds, the alkalinity of the mixture and the concentration of crosslinking amine diminish. If in the reaction product there is present a proportion of covalently linked chlorine which is higher than desired, there may e.g. be added a further reactant which is a monofunctional tertiary amine and/or, if the starting crosslinking reactant is a secondary monoamine, there may be added a suitable strong base, such as an alkali metal hydroxide, preferably sodium hydroxide, so that the pH is preferably maintained in the range of 7 to 9. When the reaction has completed or has reached the desired degree, the reaction mixture is suitably acidified by addition of a conventional acid, preferably a mineral acid (such as hydrochloric acid, sulphuric acid or phosphoric acid) or a low molecular aliphatic carboxylic acid e.g. with 1 to 6 carbon atoms (such as formic acid, acetic acid, citric acid or lactic acid), preferably to reach a pH below 7, more preferably in the range of 4 to 7, most preferably in the range of 5 to 6.5. The progress of the reaction may be followed by checking the viscosity of the reaction mixture, which gives an empirical impression of the degree of crosslinking, i.e. quaternization. A suitable viscosity is e.g. in the range of 200 to 3000 cP.

Preferred polymers (P_A) are:

(P_{A1}) crosslinked epichlorohydrin/amine polymers,

(P_{A2}) crosslinked polymers obtained by reaction of epichlorohydrin with oligohydroxy-alkanes and further quaternizing reaction with amines,

and (P_{A3}) crosslinked polymers obtained by reaction of epichlorohydrin with a polyalkylene-glycol and further reaction with quaternizing amines.

Among the above are preferred (P_{A1}) and especially (P_{A2}).

For the production of (W) (P_A) is applied to (M) in the presence of water and optionally in combination with (B).

For the production of the cationically modified pigment (W) (M) may thus be mixed with (P_A) in aqueous medium; if it is desired or required to produce an optically brightened pigment, an

optical brightener (B) may be added either in combination with (P_A) or afterwards, e.g. in the same aqueous medium or at a later stage.

According to a further variant a solution of (P_A), optionally in combination with (B), may be
5 sprayed on a dry (M)-powder with mixing.

The produced aqueous (W)-suspension may, if desired, be filtered and dried to a white pigment (W) in dry, particulate form of corresponding particle size. If desired it may be agglomerated to larger agglomerate particles, e.g. by compaction e.g. to granules, pellets or tablets.

10

The invention thus also provides a process for the production of a white pigment (W) in the form of an aqueous suspension, wherein an aqueous suspension of (M) is admixed with an aqueous solution of (P_A) optionally in combination with (B) and/or followed by application of (B), and also a process for the production of a white pigment (W) in dry form, wherein an aqueous
15 suspension of (M) is admixed with an aqueous solution of (P_A) optionally in combination with (B) and/or followed by application of (B), the suspension is filtered and the residue is dried and optionally compacted.

20

This process is in particular carried out substantially in the absence of further functional additives that would interfere in a disturbing way with the reaction, in particular in the absence of other functional papermaking additives and components (such as resins, fibres and/or paper-size components).

25

The weight ratio of (P_A) to (M) – referred to the respective dry forms – may range broadly, depending on the desired degree of cationic modification of (M) in (W); it may e.g. range in the scope of 0.01:100 to 10:100, preferably 0.2:100 to 5:100, more preferably 0.3:100 to 4:100. For compacted dry forms this weight ratio is preferably in the range of 0.01:100 to 3:100, more preferably 0.2:100 to 2:100.

30

The polymer (P_A) may be applied in the form of an aqueous solution – e.g. of a concentration in the range 0.1 g/l to the saturation limit – to (M) by any suitable method. If (M) is used in the form of an aqueous slurry, the (P_A)-solution is preferably a concentrated solution – e.g. of a concentration in the range 1 g/l to the saturation limit, preferably in the range of 5 g/l to 40 g/l – and may be mixed with it in the desired proportion e.g. by plain stirring and optionally with

35

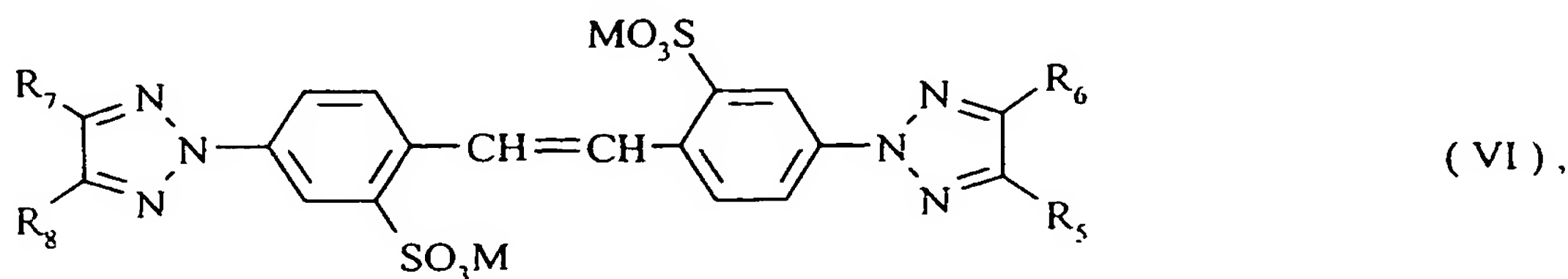
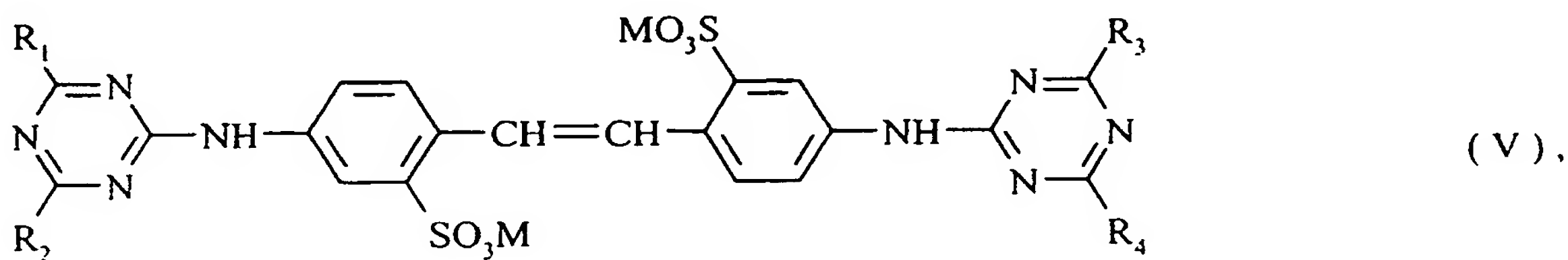
heating or cooling, e.g. at a temperature in the range of 5 to 60°C, preferably 10 to 40°C, more

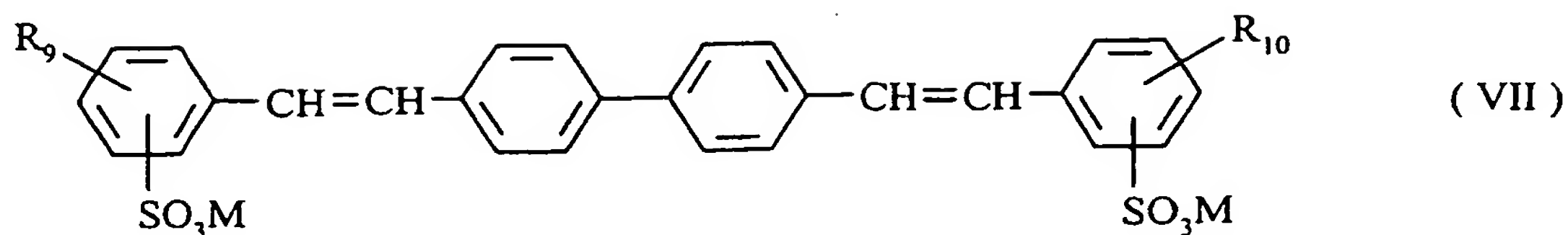
preferably with slight heating e.g. in the temperature range of 25 to 40°C or at ambient conditions without any heating or cooling. If (M) is in the dry form, a sprayable, preferably more diluted solution of (P_A) – e.g. of a concentration in the range of 0.1 to 20 g/l, preferably 0.5 to 10 g/l – may e.g. be applied by spraying and mixing, optionally with heating or cooling, e.g. at a temperature in the range of 5 to 60°C, preferably 10 to 40°C, more preferably with slight heating e.g. in the temperature range of 25 to 40°C or at ambient conditions without any heating or cooling.

The pH of the solution of (P_A) may range broadly, e.g. from the weakly acidic to weakly basic range, in particular from pH 5 to pH 8, preferably pH 5.5 to pH 7.5.

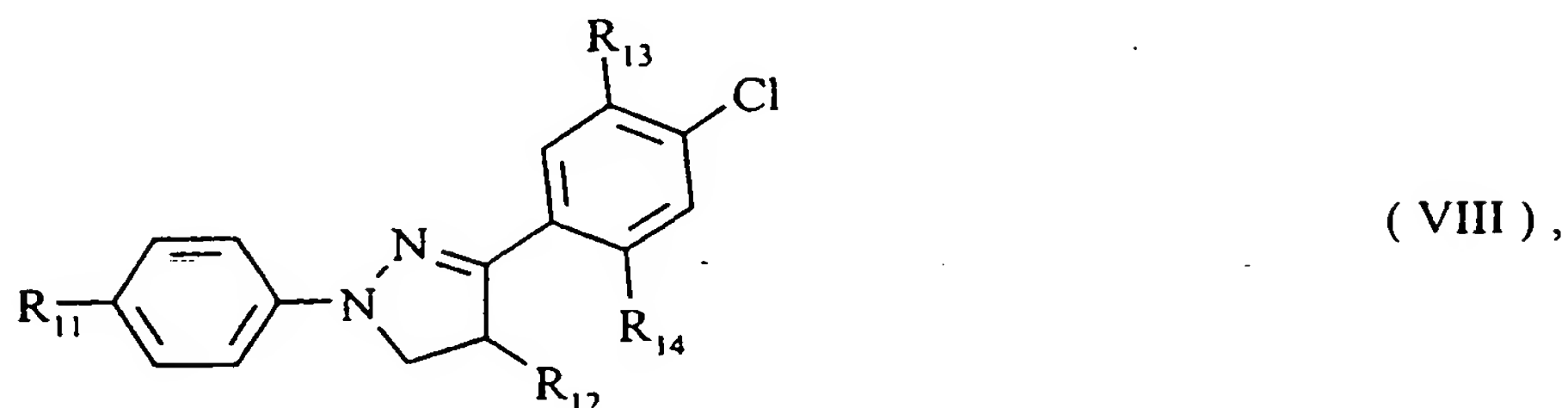
If desired, (P_A) may be combined with a minor equivalent proportion of (B) prior to application to (M).

As (B) there may be employed any anionic optical brightener that is water soluble in the form of its alkali metal salt, in particular anionic optical brighteners suitable for the optical brightening of paper, advantageously containing 2 to 10 anionic groups, preferably 4 to 10 anionic groups, the anionic groups being preferably sulphonate groups and/or carboxylate groups, e.g. 2 to 8, more preferably 2 to 6, sulphonate groups and optionally 2 to 4 carboxylate groups. Anionic optical brighteners, especially those suitable for the optical brightening of paper, are well known in the art and also described in the specialised literature. Preferred categories of optical brighteners are those of the diaminostilbene, bisstilbyl (also referred to as bis styryl biphenyl) or 1,3-diphenylpyrazoline series, e.g. of the following formulae:





and



5

wherein

R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 signify, independently from each other, the radical of an amine or of an alcohol,

10 R_5 and R_7 signify, independently from each other, C_{1-2} -alkyl, phenyl or sulphophenyl,

R_6 and R_8 signify, independently from each other, hydrogen, C_{1-2} -alkyl, phenyl or sulphophenyl,

R_9 and R_{10} signify, independently from each other, hydrogen, C_{1-2} -alkyl or -alkoxy, chlorine or $-SO_3M$,

15 R_{11} signifies a radical of formula $-SO_2-(NH)_m-(C_{2-4}\text{-alkylene})-SO_3M$,

m signifies zero or one,

R_{12} signifies hydrogen or $-CH_2-SO_3M$,

R_{13} signifies hydrogen or chlorine,

R_{14} signifies hydrogen or, if R_{14} signifies chlorine, also methyl

20 and M signifies hydrogen or an alkali metal cation.

In the significances of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 the radical of an alcohol is preferably the radical of an aliphatic alcohol or of a phenol. The radical of the aliphatic alcohol is preferably C_{1-4} -alkoxy, the phenol radical is preferably unsubstituted phenoxy. The amine radical is preferably optionally substituted anilino or an aliphatic aminogroup $-NR_0'R_0''$,

25

wherein

R_0' signifies hydrogen, C_{1-4} -alkyl, benzyl, C_{2-3} -hydroxyalkyl or carboxy- $(C_{1-4}\text{-alkyl})$,

R_0'' signifies hydrogen, C_{1-4} -alkyl, C_{2-3} -hydroxyalkyl, sulpho- C_{1-3} -alkyl, sulpho- C_{3-4} -hydroxyalkyl, cyano- $(C_{1-3}$ -alkyl), carbamoyl- $(C_{1-3}$ -alkyl), carboxy- $(C_{1-4}$ -alkyl), carboxy-[cyano- $(C_{2-3}$ -alkyl)], carboxy-[carbamoyl- $(C_{2-3}$ -alkyl)] or dicarboxy- $(C_{2-3}$ -alkyl),

5 or R_0' and R_0'' together with the nitrogen to which they are linked form a heterocycle,

R_1 and R_3 preferably signify an optionally substituted anilino group of formula



10

wherein R_0''' signifies hydrogen, methyl, methoxy or chlorine, preferably hydrogen,
and n signifies 0, 1 or 2,

or an aliphatic aminogroup $-NR_0'R_0''$,

15

R_0' preferably signifies C_{1-2} -alkyl, benzyl, C_{2-3} -hydroxyalkyl or carboxy- $(C_{1-2}$ -alkyl).

R_0'' preferably signifies C_{2-3} -hydroxyalkyl, carbamoyl- $(C_{1-3}$ -alkyl), cyano- $(C_{1-3}$ -alkyl) or carboxy- $(C_{1-2}$ -alkyl).

20

If R_0' and R_0'' together with the nitrogen to which they are linked form a heterocycle, this is preferably a morpholine ring or a carboxypyrrolidine ring,

R_2 and R_4 preferably signify methoxy, phenoxy or more preferably an aliphatic aminogroup
25 $-NR_0'R_0''$,

The two symbols R_1 and R_3 in formula (V) may have the same significance or different significances. Preferably they have the same significance.

30

Similarly also the two symbols R_2 and R_4 in formula (V) may have the same significance or different significances. Preferably they have the same significance.

R_5 and R_7 preferably signify phenyl or sulphophenyl.

R_6 and R_8 preferably signify hydrogen or C_{1-2} -alkyl.

5 The two symbols R_5 and R_7 in formula (VI) may have the same significance or different significances. Preferably they have the same significance.

Similarly also the two symbols R_6 and R_8 in formula (VI) may have the same significance or different significances. Preferably they have the same significance.

10 The two sulpho groups shown in formula (VII) with a floating bond and which do not belong to a significance of R_9 and R_{10} are preferably in the respective positions ortho to the ethylene radical.

If the two symbols R_9 and R_{10} have a significance other than hydrogen, they are preferably in the positions meta or para to the ethylene radical. Preferably R_9 and R_{10} signify hydrogen.

15 If the alkylene bridge in the significance of R_{11} contains 3 or 4 carbon atoms, it is preferably branched.

20 The above optical brighteners are known or may be produced by known methods analogously to known brighteners. Anionic optical brighteners of the diaminostilbene and bisstilbyl series are described e.g. in US patent 4888128, anionic optical brighteners of the 1,3-diphenylpyrazoline series are described e.g. in Rev. Prog. Coloration, Vol 17, 1987, pages 46-47. Optical brighteners of the bistriazinylaminostilbene disulphonic acid series, in particular of formula (V), are described e.g. in WO 96/00221 A1, in GB-A 1239276, 1313469 and 1471193 and in Japanese
25 Kokais JA 62-106965 A2 and JA 63-282382 A2. Among the above optical brighteners are preferred those of formula (V), e.g. with 2 to 10 sulpho groups, in particular those containing 2 to 8, preferably 4 to 6, $-SO_3M$ groups, e.g. those described in WO 96/00221 A1.

30 M is preferably an alkali metal cation or hydrogen, in particular lithium, sodium and/or potassium or any combination.

The optical brighteners (B) may be employed in any form as commercially available, e.g. as powders or granules, which may be dissolved in water before combination with (P_A) or, with particular advantage, they may be employed in the form of an aqueous solution directly from
35 production.

According to a particular feature of the invention (B) is combined with (P_A) prior to completion of the polymerisation and/or crosslinking reaction.

- 5 The produced polymer (P_A), if desired in admixture with another cationic polymer, especially with a cationic starch, e.g. in the weight ratio of the latter to (P_A) of up to 20 %, expediently in the form of an aqueous solution, may be combined with a solution of (B). Preferably however (P_A) is not combined with other cationic polymers. According to one feature of this process, the aqueous solution of (B) is added to the aqueous solution of (P_A), preferably stepwise and with
- 10 heating, e.g. at temperatures in the range of 40°C to the boil, preferably 40 to 90°C. According to a preferred feature of this process variant, the solution of (B) is added before polymerisation and/or crosslinking of (P_A) has completed. For the production of a composition from (P_{A2}) or (P_{A3}) it is preferred to add at least a part of the optical brightener (B) before the crosslinking reaction has completed and to add the remaining portion of the solution of (B) during the
- 15 crosslinking reaction, so that there is obtained an aqueous composition in which the optical brightener anions are the counter-ions to a part of the cations of (P_{A2}) or (P_{A3}) and (B) is also entrained by (or entangled with) (P_{A2}) or (P_{A3}). Similarly, for a derivative of (P_{A1}) it is of advantage to add the solution of (B) during crosslinking – e.g. when starting from a secondary amine and, if crosslinking is promoted by the intermediate addition of a strong base, for instance
- 20 of sodium hydroxide, the optical brightener solution may be added simultaneously with or subsequently to the addition of the base. The pH is chosen suitably in such a way that salt-formation of (P_A) with (B) is favoured, expediently in the weakly acidic to distinctly alkaline range, preferably at a pH in the range of 5 to 10, more preferably 5.5 to 9. The ratio of (B) to (P_A) or to its precursor is chosen in such a way that the obtained product (P_{AB}) is of cationic
- 25 character, which means that the number of cations, in particular of quaternary cations, in (P_A) or respectively in (P_{AB}) is larger than the number of anions introduced with (B). The ratio of total anionic groups introduced with (B) to the total quaternary ammonium groups in (P_A) or respectively (P_{AB}) is e.g. in the range of 2/100 to 60/100. The weight ratio of (B) to (P_A) is chosen accordingly in a suitable way, e.g. in the range of 1/100 to 40/100; the weight ratio of (B)
- 30 to a suitable precursor of (P_A) is chosen accordingly. The cationicity of (P_{AB}), i.e. the amount of quaternary ammonium groups not engaged with (B), expressed in milliequivalents per gram of (P_{AB}), is inferior, preferably by at least 0.1 meq/g, to the one of (P_A) and is e.g. in the range of 0.1 to 1.2 meq/g, preferably 0.2 to 1 meq/g, more preferably 0.45 to 0.85 meq/g, at pH 7. The cationicity may be assessed e.g. by means of a "Charge Analyser" fitted with a photoelectric cell,
- 35 by titration of a 0.1 weight-% (P_{AB})-solution with a polyvinyl potassium sulphate solution (e.g.

0.00052N), using Toluidine Blue as an indicator (from blue = cationic to pink = anionic), at pH 4, 7 and 9 (adjusted by means of hydrochloric acid or potassium hydroxide solution).

The rate of addition and the concentration of the components is expediently chosen in such a way that a distinct increase of the viscosity of the obtained solution takes place and the solution of combined product (P_{AB}) is still easily stirrable, e.g. of a viscosity below 5000 cP, preferably in the range of 200 to 4000 cP. A suitable concentration for the solution of (B) is in the range of 5 to 70, preferably 10 to 50 % by weight. A suitable concentration for the solution of (P_A) is in the range of 10 to 80, preferably 20 to 70 % by weight. A suitable concentration for the produced solution of (P_{AB}) is in the range of 10 to 90, preferably 20 to 80 % by weight. A particularly preferred viscosity for these concentrations is in the range of 500 to 2000 cP. The obtained aqueous composition of (P_{AB}) is an aqueous solution, i.e. a true or at least colloidal solution. It may be used directly as produced, or – if desired – it may be modified in salt content and/or concentration e.g. by membrane filtration, and/or it may be combined with any further desired components, e.g. with an additive that stops the growth of disturbing micro-organisms or with a biocide e.g. in a concentration of 0.001 to 0.1 % by weight referred to the liquid composition. The pH of the solution of the combined product (P_{AB}), for application to (M) is preferably in the range of 5 to 9, more preferably in the range of 6 to 8. The so produced compositions combine the properties of component (B) as an optical brightener and of component (P_A) as an internal or external functional additive in papermaking, for instance as a flocculant, drainage assistant, retention adjuvant or fixative.

The white pigments (W') which are the products of the application of (P_A) to (M), have a distinct cationic character and combine the physical properties of (M) with the chemical properties of the cationic modification by (P_A); i.e. they may be used analogously to (M) as pigments or fillers in various stages of paper production, and they are optically brightenable with any anionic optical brighteners, in particular with (B), to a high degree, they favour drainage, retention and fixation, and the compacted forms are readily dispersible in water to give a regular suspension that may be used for producing white-pigment-containing coating masses, size liquors or paper pulp suspensions. The white pigments (W) are also readily compatible with other cationic products that might be used in paper production, such as drainage aids, retention assistants and fixatives, e.g. with cationic starches. The white pigments (W) not only are optically brightenable, but if they are white pigments (W'') that contain (B) in the form of (P_{AB}), they are of surprisingly high whiteness and furthermore may, if desired, be further optically brightened with further anionic optical brighteners to "super white" pigments (W''').

The white pigments (W) of the invention, especially (W"), are of high whiteness and may be employed as white fillers or pigments in any field of technique where inorganic white pigments are employed, e.g. in paints, varnishes, cosmetics, construction materials and plastics, but most preferably in papermaking.

The white pigments (W) of the invention, expediently in the form of aqueous composition as produced by the method described above, serve as fillers or pigments and may simultaneously – due to their cationicity – also contribute to the drainage, retention or fixation in the production of paper, and also to a reduction of the amount of backwater components, e.g. turbidity, in backwaters (white waters) from paper production.

The invention thus provides also a method for producing paper, in particular a paper web or sheet, from aqueous stock, wherein (W) is employed as a white pigment or filler.

As "paper" there is intended herein also paper board and cast paper shapes. As an aqueous stock there is intended any stock, in particular cellulosic stock, as employed for papermaking and wherein the pulp suspension may derive from any origin as conventionally employed for papermaking, e.g. virgin fibre (chemical or mechanical pulp), machine broke (in particular coated broke) and reclaimed paper (especially deinked and optionally bleached reclaimed paper). The aqueous paper pulp or stock may also contain further additions as may be desired for a certain quality, such as sizing agents, fillers, flocculating agents, drainage and/or retention assistants, which may be added before or after the addition of (W) or also simultaneously, as suitable for the particular concerned method. The stock concentration may vary in any conventional range as suitable for the employed pulp, machine, process and desired paper quality, e.g. in the range of 0.4 to 10 %, preferably 0.8 to 6 %, by weight of dry pulp. According to a particular feature of the invention there is employed a pulp from coated broke and/or bleached, deinked reclaimed paper optionally blended with other pulp.

The concentration and other application conditions may vary broadly depending on the particular application (as filler or pigment, in the paper mass or in a coating paste). The pH may be in the weakly basic to distinctly acidic range, preferably in the range of pH 4 to pH 8, more preferably pH 5 to pH 7. The concentration may be chosen depending also on the presence of (B). The paper may be produced using any conventional paper making machines and in a manner conventional per se. The resulting backwater is of reduced contaminants content, in particular of

reduced turbidity, and consequently the respective BOD and/or COD values are also reduced. By the use of (W) there may also be achieved an improvement of the efficiency of other cationic wet-end additives such as flocculants, retention assistants or drainage assistants, and there may be obtained paper of optimum quality while the occurrence of paper breakages due to disturbing anionic contaminants is correspondingly reduced, while the efficiency of the optical brightener (B) is optimal and there may be obtained paper of very regular whiteness in high yield. The so produced paper may in particular be employed as a substrate for ink-jet-printing.

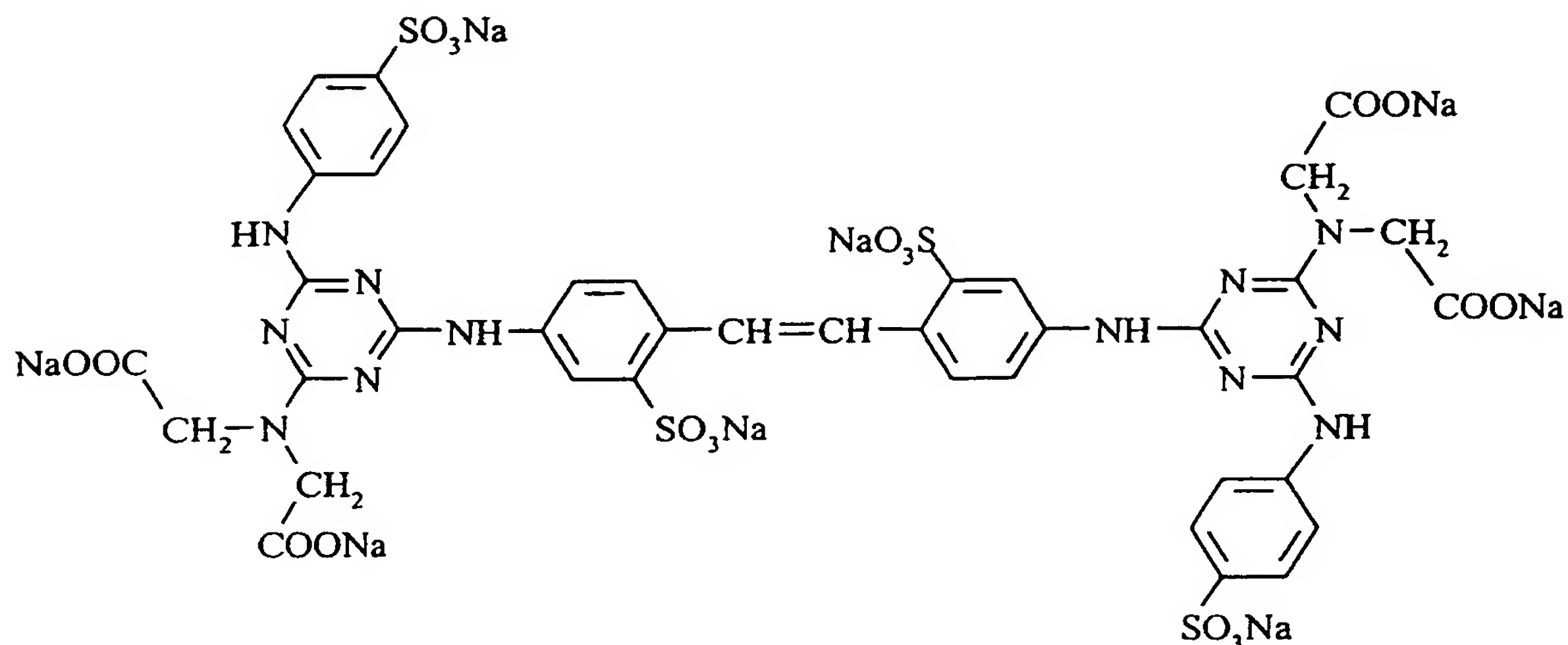
- 10 In the following Examples parts and percentages are by weight, if not otherwise indicated; parts by weight relate to parts by volume as grams to milliliters; the temperatures are indicated in degrees Celsius; in Application Examples C and D °SR signifies degrees Schopper-Riegler and the percentages relate to the weight of the starting aqueous pulp suspension.

15

Synthesis of (P_A) and (P_{AB})

Example 1

- 70.2 parts of sorbitol are mixed with 35.5 parts of glycerol and heated to 90°C to form a solution.
- 20 0.5 part of boron trifluoride acetic acid complex is added and the mixture is stirred to disperse the catalyst through the reaction mixture. 212.7 parts of epichlorohydrin are added dropwise at 80°C with cooling. The reaction mixture is then cooled to 50°C and vacuum is applied. 86.6 parts of an aqueous 60 % dimethylamine solution are added and the reaction mixture is allowed to heat slowly to 90°C maintaining the vacuum. After one hour the reaction mixture is cooled to 60°C
- 25 and a mixture of 90.4 parts of 32 % sodium hydroxide, 301.8 parts of a 18.4 % aqueous solution of the sodium salt of the optical brightener of formula



and 198.4 parts of demineralised water is added over 90 minutes. The reaction mixture is held at 55 - 60°C and the mixture slowly thickens as it polymerises. Finally when the reaction mixture reaches the viscosity of 820 cP (Brookfield RVT, at 20°C, spindle Nr. 4, 100 rpm) the reaction is stopped by the addition of 5 parts of formic acid to give a pH of 5-6. The solids content of the product is 47.1 %. The measured cationic charge is 388 meq/l (= 0.824 meq/g referred to the dry substance) at pH 4, 309 meq/l (= 0.657 meq/g referred to the dry substance) at pH 7 and 220 meq/l (= 0.468 meq/g referred to the dry substance) at pH 9.

Example 2

The procedure described in Example 1 is repeated, with the difference that 52.4 parts of pentaerythritol are used in place of 70.2 parts of sorbitol.

Example 3

The procedure described in Example 1 is repeated, with the difference that 23.9 parts of ethylene glycol are employed instead of 35.5 parts of glycerol.

Example 4

The procedure described in Example 1 is repeated, with the difference that 131 parts of 60 % tetramethylethylenediamine are employed instead of 86.8 parts of 60 % dimethylamine.

Example 5

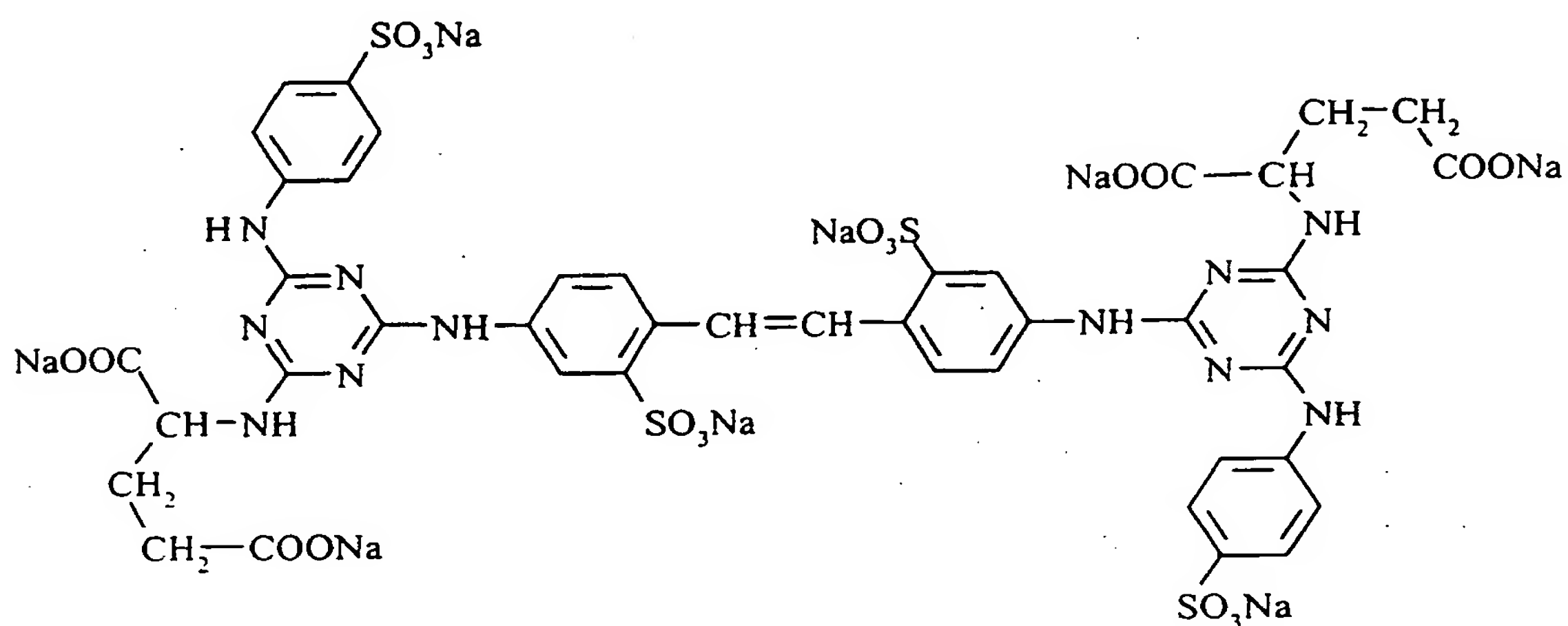
The procedure described in Example 1 is repeated, with the difference that 71 parts of glycerol are employed instead of the mixture of 70.2 parts of sorbitol and 35.5 parts of glycerol.

5

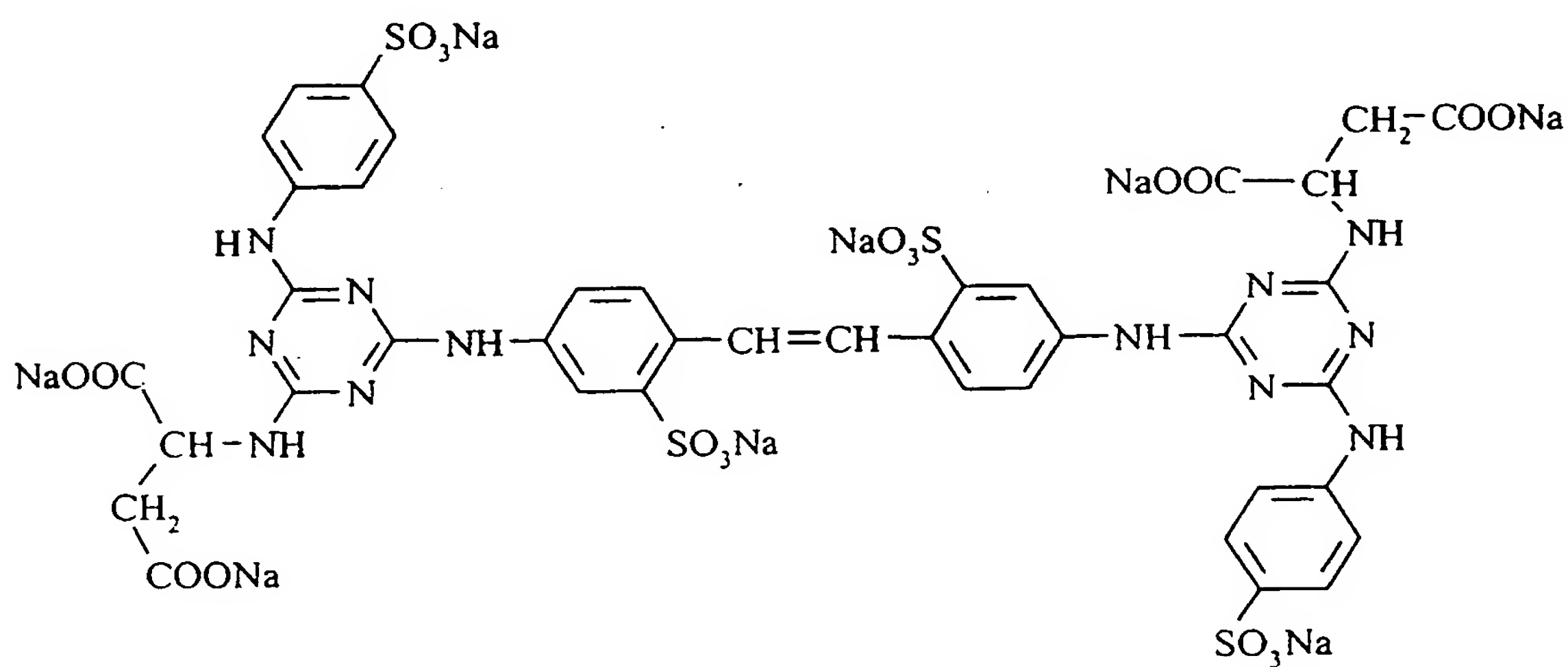
Examples 6 to 12

The procedure described in Example 1 is repeated, with the difference that there is employed a 20 % aqueous solution of the optical brightener of formula

10

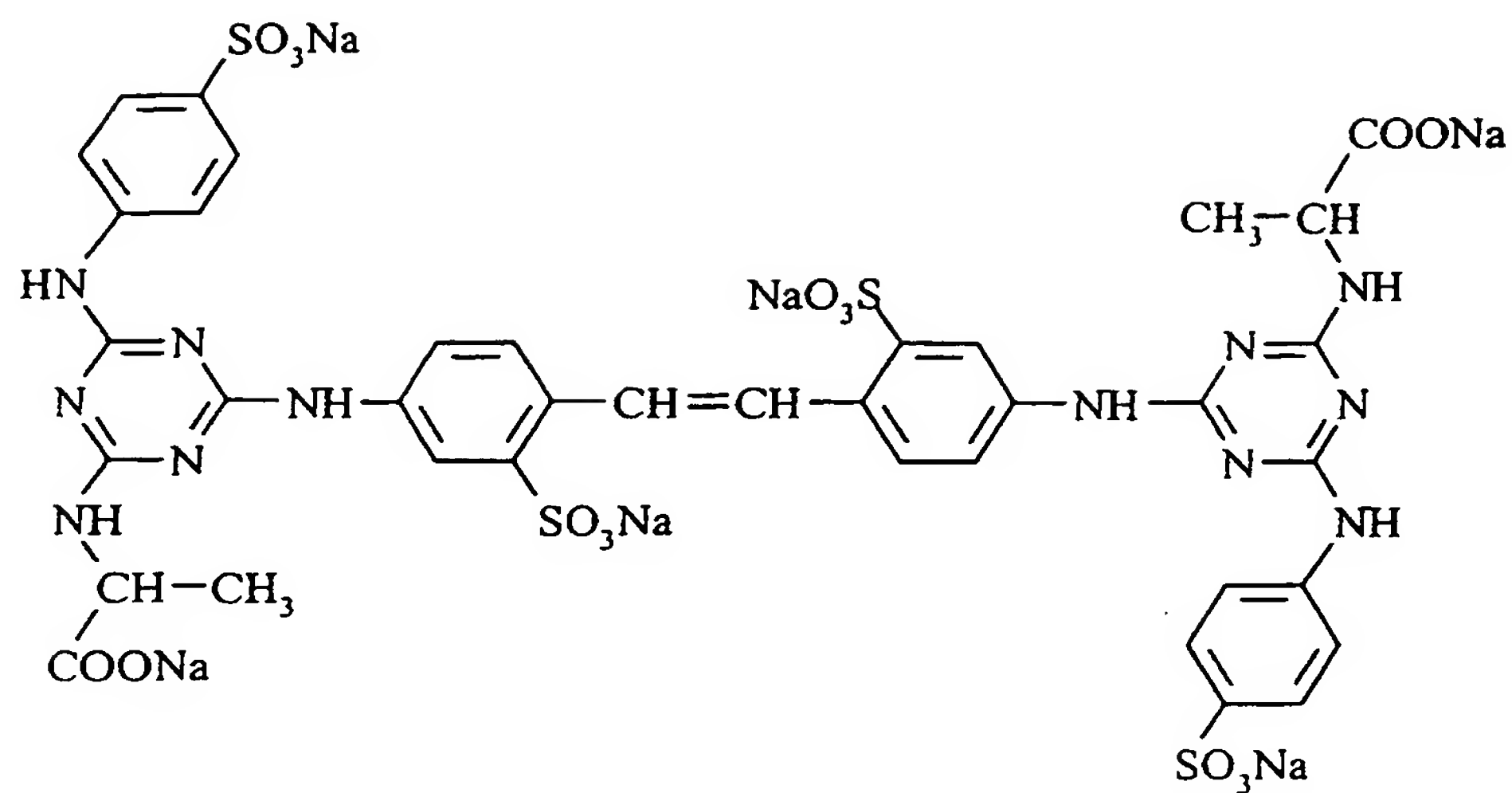


or of the optical brightener of formula



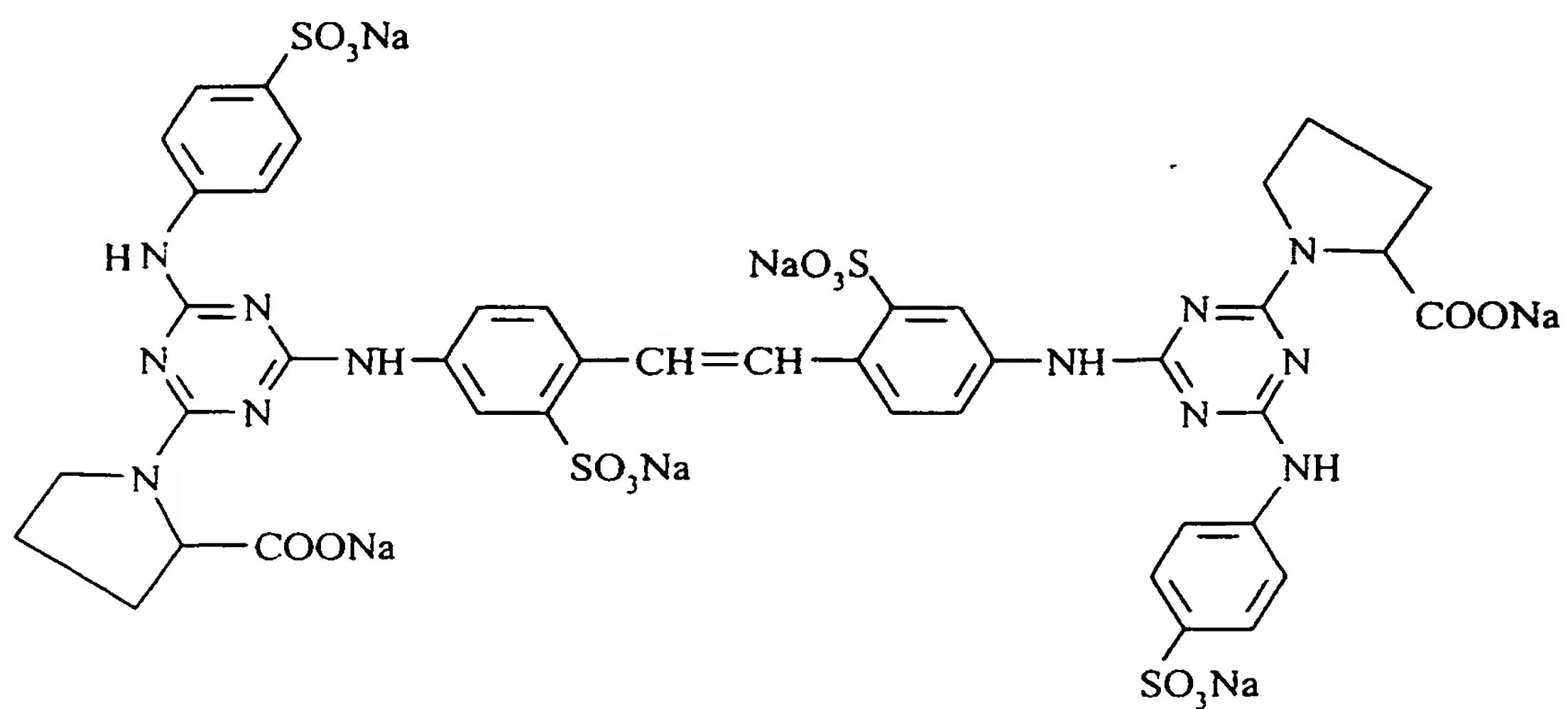
15

or of the optical brightener of formula

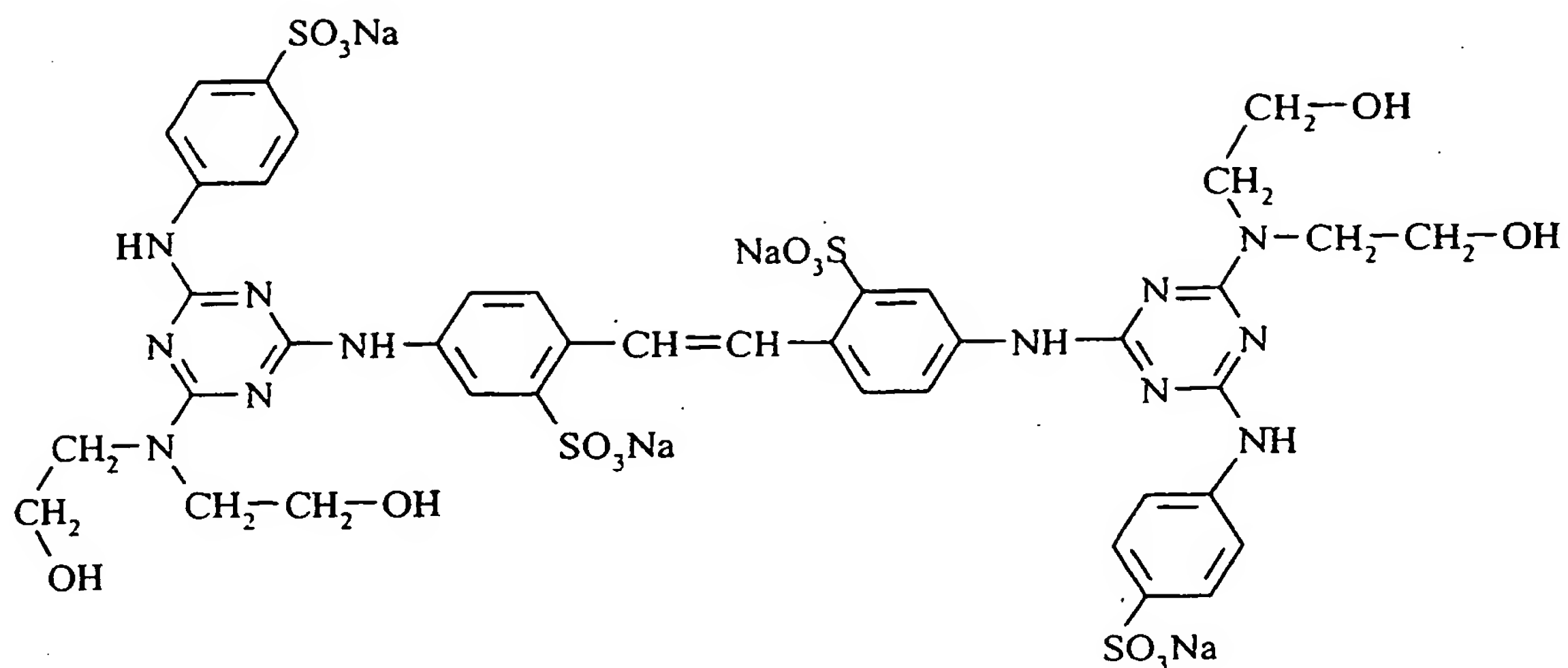


or of the optical brightener of formula

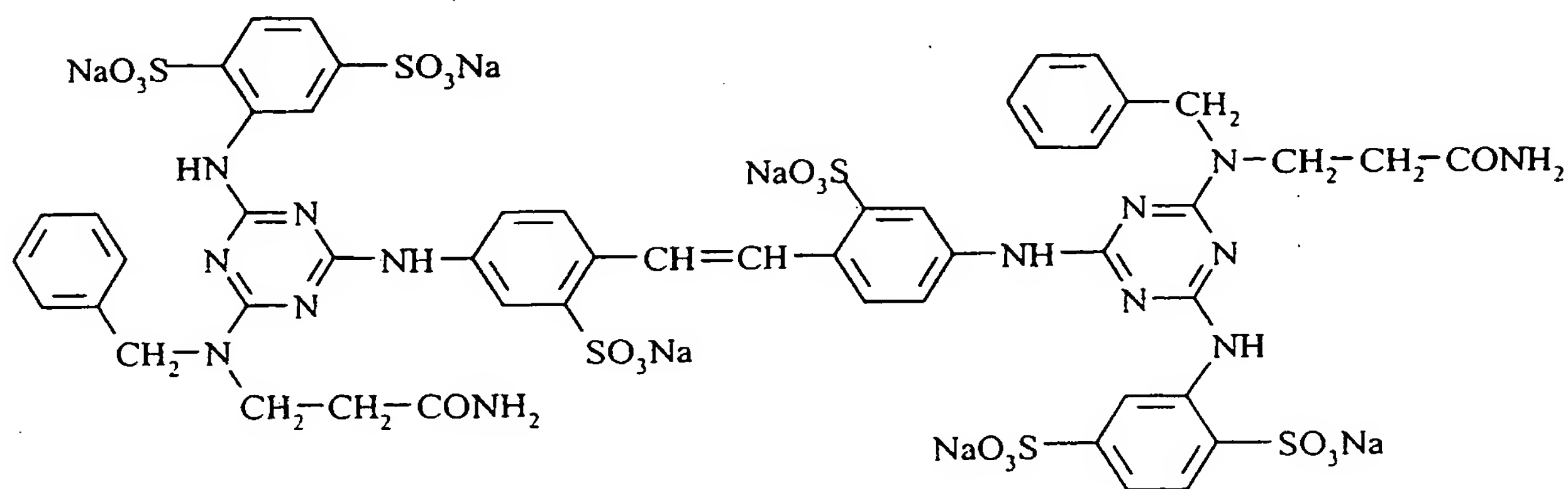
5



or a 23 % aqueous solution of the optical brightener of formula

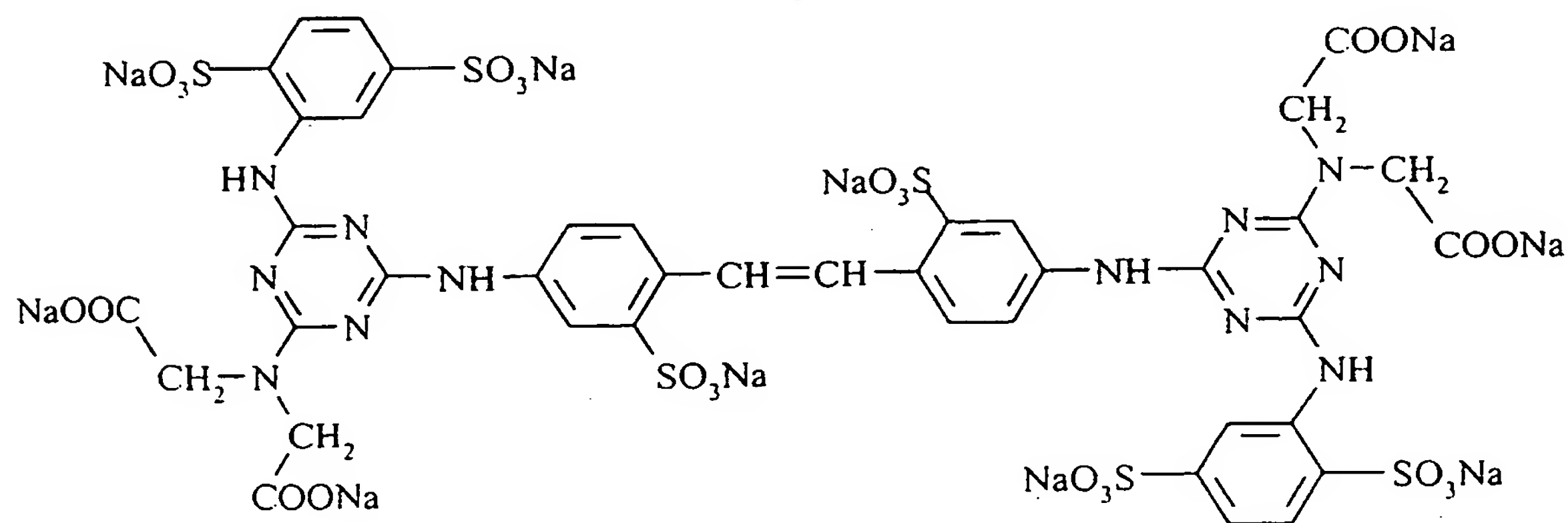


or a 12 % aqueous solution of the optical brightener of formula



5

or of the optical brightener of formula



10

Example 13

1.9 part of boron trifluoride acetic acid complex is added with stirring to 50 parts of polyethylene glycol 400 and the mixture is stirred and cooled to 70-75°C. Stirring is continued for further 30 minutes at 70-75°C, after which 2 parts of epichlorohydrin are added; once an exotherm is observed, further 20 parts of epichlorohydrin are added dropwise over one hour at 70-80°C with cooling and stirring is continued at 70-80°C for 30 minutes, after which volatile products are removed by heating to 120°C under vacuum. The reaction mixture is cooled to 20°C and 25.3 parts of triethylamine are added and the reaction mixture is heated slowly to 80°C and held for 3 hours, after which any excess amine is removed under vacuum. The reaction mixture is then cooled to room temperature and 100 parts of a 19 % aqueous solution of the sodium salt of the same optical brightener as in Example 11 are added.

Example 14

The procedure described in Example 13 is repeated, with the difference that instead of polyethylene glycol 400 there is employed the equivalent amount of polyethylene glycol 600.

Example 15

The procedure described in Example 13 is repeated, with the difference that instead of polyethylene glycol 400 there is employed the equivalent amount of polyethylene glycol 1000.

Example 16

The procedure described in Example 13 is repeated, with the difference that instead of polyethylene glycol 400 there is employed the equivalent amount of polyethylene glycol 1500.

Examples 17 to 21

The procedures described in Examples 1, 13, 14, 15 or 16 is repeated, with the difference that no optical brightener is added.

Example 22

109.2 parts of sorbitol are mixed with 55.2 parts of glycerol and heated to 100°C to form a solution. One part of boron trifluoride etherate is added and the mixture is stirred and cooled to 70°C. 333 parts of epichlorohydrin are added dropwise over one hour at 70-80°C with cooling. The reaction mixture is cooled to 20°C and 135 parts of an aqueous 60 % dimethylamine solution are added and the reaction mixture is heated slowly to 90°C and held for one hour. The reaction mixture is then cooled to 50°C and 150 parts of 30 % sodium hydroxide and 100 parts of water are added. The mixture is held at 50 - 60°C and the mixture slowly thickens as it polymerises. During this time extra water is added (275 parts) as the viscosity increases. Finally when the reaction mixture reaches the viscosity of 1000 cP the reaction is stopped by the addition of 20 parts of formic acid to give a pH of 4.

Production Examples of (W)

10 parts of a filler or pigment (M_X) are mixed in a suitable vessel with 300 parts of water and x parts of cationic product (P_A) or (P_{AB}) in the form of aqueous concentrate produced in the above Examples are added thereto with the aid of further 80 parts of water and the mixture is stirred during 5 minutes at 400 rpm and then suction-filtered through a glass fibre paper filter. The moist filter pad is transferred to a drying oven and dried at 30°C. The dried product is then ground to a fine powder of average particle size of 1 μm with $> 80 \% < 2 \mu\text{m}$ and $< 2 \% > 10 \mu\text{m}$.

$x = 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7$ and 0.8 .

If desired, before filtering, the product may be treated with an optical brightener.

The dried powder may directly be employed. For measuring the whiteness it may be shaped into tablets by means of a tablet press. The tablet may be used for measuring the whiteness, e.g. by means of a spectrophotometer (Minolta CM-3700d).

The following cationically modified pigments (W_X) are produced with the following fillers or pigments (M_X):

for (W_{X1})

(M_{X1}) Fine, white, high purity calcium carbonate with a density by ISO 787/10 of 2.7, commercially available under the trade name HYDROCARB OG of Plüss-Stauffer AG, Oftringen, Switzerland

for (W_{X2})

5 (M_{X2}) Very fine, white, natural microcrystalline calcium carbonate (calcite) slurry with a density of 1.89, commercially available under the trade name HYDROCARB 90M slurry from Omya UK or resp. Croxton and Garry Limited.

for (W_{X3})

10 (M_{X3}) calcium carbonate commercially available under the trade name SNOWCAL 60 from Omya UK or resp. Croxton and Garry Limited.

for (W_{X4})

(M_{X4}) Precipitated calcium carbonate commercially available under the trade name HAKUENKA TDD from Omya UK.

for (W_{X5})

15 (M_{X5}) Fine, white, highly refined clay commercially available under the trade name SUPREME from EEC International Ltd.

for (W_{X6})

(M_{X6}) Fine, white, highly refined clay commercially available under the trade name SPESWHITE from EEC International Ltd.

20 for (W_{X7})

(M_{X7}) Fine, white, high purity coating clay commercially available under the trade name SPS from EEC International Ltd.

for (W_{X8})

(M_{X8}) China Clay grade B from EEC International Ltd.

25

Production of Paper

Application Example A

30 A coating composition is prepared containing 3000 parts of the cationically modified chalk (W_{X1}) treated with the product of Example 1, 18 parts cationic dispersing agent, and 600 parts latex (a copolymer of n-butyl acrylate and styrene latex of pH 7.5-8.5, commercially available under the trade name ACRONAL S320D). The solids content is adjusted to 55 % by the addition of water. The so prepared coating composition is then applied to a commercial 75 g/m² neutral-sized (with conventional alkyl ketene dimer), bleached paper base sheet, using an automatic wire-wound bar applicator with a standard speed setting and a standard load on the bar. The coated paper is dried

35

for 5 minutes at 70°C in a hot air flow. The dried paper is allowed to condition, then measured for CIE whiteness on a calibrated Datacolor ELREPHO 2000 spectrophotometer. The measured values show a surprisingly high whiteness degree and yield.

5 Application Example B

200g of a pulp suspension (2.5 % aqueous suspension of a 50 % mixture of bleached soft wood and hard wood pulps beaten to a freeness of about 20°SR) is measured into a beaker and stirred, then 40 % filler suspension [80g of 100 g/litre (W_{X3}) in water] is added. After the addition the mixture is stirred for a further 0.5 minutes and then 1.7 % (3.4g) of neutral size is added (typically a dispersion of 2.5 g of Aquapel 360X in water - Aquapel 360X is an alkylketene dimer size suspension from Hercules Ltd.). After the addition of the size a retention aid may be added – typically Cartaretin PC. The mixture is then diluted to one litre and the paper sheet is formed on a laboratory sheet former (basically this is a cylinder with a wire gauze at the bottom - the cylinder is partly filled with water, the pulp suspension is added, air is then blown through to ensure the pulp is well dispersed, a vacuum is then applied and the pulp slurry is pulled through the wire to leave a paper sheet, this sheet is removed from the wire and pressed and dried). The sheet is left in a humidity cabinet to achieve equilibrium and then the whiteness is measured using a Datacolor ELREPHO 2000 spectrophotometer. The measured values show a surprisingly high whiteness degree and yield.

Application Example C

200g of a pulp suspension (2.5 % aqueous suspension of a 50 % mixture of bleached soft wood and hard wood pulps beaten to a freeness of about 20°SR) is measured into a beaker and stirred and 20 % filler suspension [40g of 100 g/litre of a suspension of (M_{X8}) treated with the product of Example 1, in water] is added. After the addition the mixture is stirred for a further 5 minutes and then 2 % of rosin size solution is added (typically - 'T size 22/30' from Hercules), the mixture is stirred for a further 2 minutes and then 3 ml of alum solution (50g alum in 1 litre water) are added and the mixture is stirred for a further 2 minutes. The mixture is then diluted to one litre and the paper sheet is formed on a laboratory sheet former. The sheet is left in a humidity cabinet to achieve equilibrium and then the whiteness is measured using a Datacolor ELREPHO 2000 Spectrophotometer. The measured values show a surprisingly high whiteness degree and yield.

Analogously as the product of Example 1, the products of each of Examples 2 to 16 are employed in the above Application Examples A, B and C.

Application Example D

5

Application Example A is repeated, with the difference that instead of (W_{X1}) treated with the product of Example 1 there is employed the same amount of (W_{X1}) treated with the product of Example 17 and p g/l of the optical brightener employed in Example 1 are added, p being 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

10

Application Example E

Application Example B is repeated, with the difference that instead of (W_{X3}) treated with the product of Example 1 there is employed the same amount of (W_{X3}) treated with the product of Example 17 and p g/l of the optical brightener employed in Example 1 are added, p being 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Application Example F

20 Application Example C is repeated, with the difference that instead of (W_{X8}) treated with the product of Example 1 there is employed the same amount of (W_{X8}) treated with the product of Example 17 and p g/l of the optical brightener employed in Example 1 are added, p being 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

25 Analogously as the product of Example 17, the products of each of Examples 18 to 22 are employed in the above Application Examples D, E and F.

CLAIMS

1. Cationically modified white pigment (W) in particulate form, essentially consisting of a particulate inorganic white pigment (M) of a particle size in the range of 0,1 to 40 μm and an applied water soluble, cationic, crosslinked polymer (P_A) containing quaternary ammonium groups in salt form, obtainable by reaction of epichlorohydrin or of epichlorohydrin derivatives or precursors with amines, under conditions leading to at least partial cross-linking, optionally in combination with an anionic optical brightener (B) and where the molar ratio of (B) to (P_A) is such that the number of cationic charges of the total polymer (P_A) is higher than the number of anionic charges of the total anionic optical brightener (B).

2. Cationically modified white pigment (W) according to Claim 1, wherein (P_A) is a polymer obtainable by crosslinking with an at least bifunctional secondary or tertiary amine the chloroterminated reaction product of an oligofunctional aliphatic amine and/or alcohol with epichlorohydrin and optionally further reacting any non reacted chlorine with a tertiary amine.

3. Cationically modified white pigment (W) according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein (B) and (P_A) are employed in the form of a combination thereof, which

either is a mixture of (B) in free acid or alkali metal salt form and (P_A) in which the counter-ions to the cationic quaternary ammonium groups are anions of mineral acids, anions of low molecular carboxylic acids or anions deriving from a quaternizing agent, in which mixture the number of cationic charges of the polymer (P_A) is higher than the number of anionic charges of the anionic optical brightener (B),

or is a polycationic polymer (P_{AB}) which is a partial (B)-salt of (P_A), wherein a part of the counter-ions to the quaternary cationic groups of (P_A) are anionic groups of anionic optical brightener (B),

4. Cationically modified white pigment (W) according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein (P_{AB}) is a cationic polymer obtained by carrying out the crosslinking for the production of (P_A) in the presence of (B).

5. Cationically modified white pigment (W) according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, in dry, pourable, particulate, optionally agglomerated, form, or in the form of an aqueous suspension.
- 5 6. Process for the production of a white pigment (W) according to any one of Claims 1 to 5 wherein (M) is admixed with an aqueous solution of (P_A) optionally in combination with (B), substantially in the absence of other functional papermaking additives and paper fibres.
- 10 7. Use of (W) as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 5 as a white mineral pigment or filler in the production of a white mineral pigment or filler containing substrate, preferably paper.
8. Process for the production of paper containing a white, inorganic filler or pigment, wherein an optically brightened white pigment (W) according to any one of Claims 1 to 5 is employed as a white filler or pigment.
- 15 9. Aqueous composition containing (W) as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 5.
10. Aqueous composition according to Claim 9, which is a paper coating paste.
- 20 11. A process according to Claim 8 for the production of coated paper, wherein an aqueous paper coating composition according to Claim 10 is applied to a paper sheet and dried.
12. Process according to any one of Claims 7, 8 or 11, wherein (W) is used together with a cationic starch (C).
- 25 13. A (W)-containing substrate, produced according to any one of Claims 7, 8, 11 or 12.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/IB 00/01904

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C09C3/10 C09C1/42 D21H21/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C09C D21H

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 99 15596 A (ENGELHARD CORP) 1 April 1999 (1999-04-01) the whole document	1,2,5,7
A	US 5 650 003 A (CURTIS JERRY LEON ET AL) 22 July 1997 (1997-07-22) the whole document	1-13
A	US 4 210 488 A (REUSS PETER J ET AL) 1 July 1980 (1980-07-01) the whole document	1-13
P,X	EP 1 055 774 A (SUED CHEMIE AG) 29 November 2000 (2000-11-29) the whole document	1-13

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

29 March 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

06/04/2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

LIBBERECHT, E

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/IB 00/01904

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9915596 A	01-04-1999	AU 8687198 A	12-04-1999
US 5650003 A	22-07-1997	AU 1423397 A	14-07-1997
		WO 9722669 A	26-06-1997
US 4210488 A	01-07-1980	NONE	
EP 1055774 A	29-11-2000	DE 19923778 A	23-11-2000